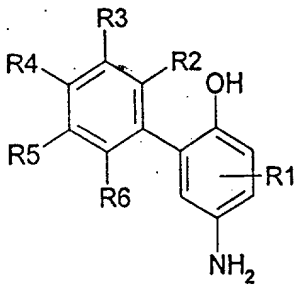
PATENT CLAIMS

1. Colorants for oxidative dyeing of keratin fibers, particularly human hair, based on a developer-coupler combination, characterized in that it contains as the developer at least one 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivative of general formula (I) or a physiologically tolerated, water-soluble salt thereof



(I)

wherein

R1 denotes hydrogen, a halogen atom, a C_1-C_4-alkyl group, a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl group, a C_1-C_4-alkoxy group or a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkoxy group;

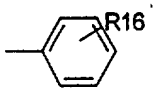
R2,R3,R4,R5,R6 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C_1-C_4-alkoxy group, a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkoxy group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl group, a C_1-C_4-alkyl thioether group, a mercapto group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group. a trifluoromethyl group, a -C(O)H group, a $-C(O)CH_3$ group, a $-C(O)CF_3$ group, an $-Si(CH_3)_3$ group, a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl group, a C_3-C_4-dihydroxyalkyl group, a -CH=CHR7 group, a $-(CH_2)_p$-CO_2R8 group or a $-(CH_2)_p$R9 with p = 1,2,3 or 4, a -C(R10)=NR11 or C(R12)H-NR13R14 group, or two adjacent R2 to R6 groups form an $-O-CH_2-O-$ bridge;

R7 denotes hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, an amino group, a $-CO_2$R12 group or a $-C(O)CH_3$ group;

R8,R10 and R13 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen or a C_1-C_4-alkyl group;

R9 denotes an amino group or a nitrile group;

R11, R14 and R15 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a C_1-C_4-alkyl group, a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl group, a C_3-C_4-dihydroxyalkyl group or a radical of formula



R12 denotes hydrogen, an amino group or a hydroxyl group,
provided that the compound of formula (I) does not present a center of symmetry.

2. Colorant according to Claim 1, characterized in that **R1** denotes hydrogen.

3. Colorant according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that **R1** denotes hydrogen and four of the **R2** to **R6** groups denote hydrogen while the fifth group is hydrogen, a methyl group, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a methoxy group, a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl group or a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkoxy group.

4. Colorant according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that all **R1** to **R6** groups denote hydrogen at the same time.

5. Colorant according to Claim 1, characterized in that four of groups **R2** to **R6** are hydrogen while the fifth group is hydrogen, a methyl group, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a methoxy group, a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl group or a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkoxy group.

6. Colorant according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivative of formula (I) is selected from among 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl, 2,4'-dihydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5-amino-4'-(2"-hydroxyethoxy)biphenyl, 2.4'-dihydroxy-5-amino-2'-methylbiphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5-amino-4'-(2"-hydroxyethyl)biphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5,4'-diaminobiphenyl or a physiologically tolerated salt thereof.

7. Colorant according to one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it contains the 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivative of formula (I) in an amount from 0.005 to 20.0 wt%.

8. Colorant according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it has a pH of 6.5 to 11.5.

9. 2-Hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivatives of formula (Ia) or a physiologically tolerated, water-soluble salt thereof